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GEN. TAYLOR CITES 'EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE'

Kennedy Hushes Bay of Pigs Findings

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WASHINGTON—President Kennedy has thrown the veil of "executive privilege" around the Bay of Pigs post-mortem conducted by his brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, and other top officials.

The President has refused to let members of Congress see the secret report prepared shortly after the disastrous Cuban invasion in April, 1961.

GEN. MAXWELL D. TAYLOR, one of the four men who carried out the investigation, said he was "not at liberty" to discuss it, even behind closed doors at a congressional hearing.

Taylor, now chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told members of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee that he couldn't answer questions about the invasion without further "instructions from higher authority."

"From the President?" he was asked.

"That is correct," the general said.

Rep. William B. Minshall (R., Ohio) asked Taylor what harm a disclosure could cause at this late date.

"I think it would be highly unfortunate to open up this question," Taylor said.

"How would it endanger the security of the United States?" asked Rep. Gerald R. Ford (R., Mich.).

"It would result in another highly controversial diversive public discussion among branches of our Government which would be damaging to all parties concerned," the general replied.

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REP. FORD noted that Attorney General Kennedy had given the press some tidbits from the Bay of Pigs investigation.

"Isn't a partial disclosure likewise unfortunate?" Ford asked.

"I would prefer to have no further discussion of any sort from anyone," Taylor said.

The Bay of Pigs report was prepared by Robert Kennedy, former CIA Director Allen Dulles, former Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Arleigh Burke and Taylor, then a retired Army officer.

"Executive privilege" is a theory that the executive branch has a right to conduct at least part of its business in secrecy without outside supervision.

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